

transfers of money or property made in taxable years beginning after December 31, 1953, and ending after August 16, 1954.

[T.D. 6772, 29 FR 15753, Nov. 24, 1964, as amended by T.D. 8408, 57 FR 12421, Apr. 10, 1992]

§ 1.461-3 Prepaid interest. [Reserved]

§ 1.461-4 Economic performance.

(a) *Introduction*—(1) *In general.* For purposes of determining whether an accrual basis taxpayer can treat the amount of any liability (as defined in § 1.446-1(c)(1)(ii)(B)) as incurred, the all events test is not treated as met any earlier than the taxable year in which economic performance occurs with respect to the liability.

(2) *Overview.* Paragraph (b) of this section lists exceptions to the economic performance requirement. Paragraph (c) of this section provides cross-references to the definitions of certain terms for purposes of section 461 (h) and the regulations thereunder. Paragraphs (d) through (m) of this section and § 1.461-6 provide rules for determining when economic performance occurs. Section 1.461-5 provides rules relating to an exception under which certain recurring items may be incurred for the taxable year before the year during which economic performance occurs.

(b) *Exceptions to the economic performance requirement.* Paragraph (a)(2)(iii)(B) of § 1.461-1 provides examples of liabilities that are taken into account under rules that operate without regard to the all events test (including economic performance).

(c) *Definitions.* The following cross-references identify certain terms defined for purposes of section 461(h) and the regulations thereunder:

(1) *Liability.* See paragraph (c)(1)(ii)(B)d of § 1.446-1 for the definition of “liability.”

(2) *Payment.* See paragraph (g)(1)(ii) of this section for the definition of “payment.”

(d) *Liabilities arising out of the provision of services, property, or the use of property*—(1) *In general.* The principles of this paragraph (d) determine when economic performance occurs with respect to liabilities arising out of the

performance of services, the transfer of property, or the use of property. This paragraph (d) does not apply to liabilities described in paragraph (e) (relating to interest expense) or paragraph (g) (relating to breach of contract, workers compensation, tort, etc.) of this section. In addition, except as otherwise provided in Internal Revenue regulations, revenue procedures, or revenue rulings this paragraph (d) does not apply to amounts paid pursuant to a notional principal contract. The Commissioner may provide additional rules in regulations, revenue procedures, or revenue rulings concerning the time at which economic performance occurs for items described in this paragraph (d).

(2) *Services or property provided to the Taxpayer*—(i) *In general.* Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (d)(5) of this section, if the liability of a taxpayer arises out of the providing of services or property to the taxpayer by another person, economic performance occurs as the services or property is provided.

(ii) *Long-term contracts.* In the case of any liability of a taxpayer described in paragraph (d)(2)(i) of this section that is an expense attributable to a long-term contract with respect to which the taxpayer uses the percentage of completion method, economic performance occurs—

(A) As the services or property is provided; or, if earlier,

(B) As the taxpayer makes payment (as defined in paragraph (g)(1)(ii) of this section) in satisfaction of the liability to the person providing the services or property. See paragraph (k)(2) of this section for the effective date of this paragraph (d)(2)(ii).

(iii) *Employee benefits*—(A) *In general.* Except as otherwise provided in any Internal Revenue regulation, revenue procedure, or revenue ruling, the economic performance requirement is satisfied to the extent that any amount is otherwise deductible under section 404 (employer contributions to a plan of deferred compensation), section 404A (certain foreign deferred compensation plans), and section 419 (welfare benefit funds). See § 1.461-1(a)(2)(iii)(D).

(B) *Property transferred in connection with performance of services.* [Reserved]